

EXHIBIT

14

DATE

2-21-13

HB

471

Kalispell Public Schools  
Jennifer Montague  
Food Service Director  
February 21, 2013

My name is Jenny Montague and I am the Food Service Director for Kalispell Public Schools. I believe strongly in local purchasing, because the use of local foods automatically reduces our dependence on highly processed foods, and because it keeps our purchasing power in our state. Currently, I am proud that we have re-directed close to \$50,000 locally, which was spent outside our state in previous years. This money is spent on beef raised and slaughtered in Kalispell, apples produced in orchards around Flathead lake, seasonal produce grown in the Moiese Valley, and grains and legumes from east of the mountains. This is only 9% of our food budget, so I believe there is dramatic potential for increased local procurement. HB 471 would give school districts the ability to develop Farm to School Programs that can eventually change the health of our students and economic potential of our food producers. This bill is the type of legislation that benefits the struggling smaller farms in our state, and supports the type of food systems that gives hope and security to Montana's constituents.